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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EEB/TPP/MTAA, NEA/RA, AND NEA/ARP PLEASE PASS TO USTR JASON BUNTIN USDA FOR JON ANN FLEMINGS AND PETER TABOR BAGHDAD FOR AMBASSADOR ERELI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/22/2019

TAGS: <u>ECON</u> <u>ETRD</u> <u>BA</u>

SUBJECT: BAHRAIN OFFICIALS WILLING TO WORK WITH U.S. ON GCC

FOOD IMPORT PROCEDURES

REF: 08 STATE 134461

Classified By: CDA Christopher Henzel for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Econoff delivered reftel demarche on January 13 to Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) Director of Foreign Trade Relations Eman Al Doseri. Al Doseri said that MOIC was interested in resolving any technical issues prior to the implementation of the Guide by the Ministry of Health, and that MOIC might further delay implementation if needed. She indicated that she had not yet seen the GCC Food Safety Committee's response to U.S. concerns, but that Bahrain remained committed to continued technical engagement until the documentation concerns were resolved.

Visit Embassy Manama's Classified Website: http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/manama/

HENZEL